

## Semi-rural properties

My response is as a resident of a semi - rural property which is a 'broadband anomaly'. This is a fairly common type of property: one which is not far from a town (in this case Axminster, 3 miles away) and which has 20+ similar properties nearby. All these properties are close to villages which already have superfast broadband ; however our connectivity map ( see below\*) shows that we are in a small area designated 'out of programme' and that there are no plans to upgrade us. We currently average just below 2 mb per second.

In specific response to the consultation letter from the DCMS:

Point 2 Footprint and potential demand: - clearly where there is a group of properties (20 + in our case) surrounded by areas where there is superfast broadband, it does not make sense for these to be excluded from future developments.

Point 3 Aggregation of demand: For groups of properties as described it must make economic sense for them to be upgraded collectively. The rather piecemeal approach of asking individual properties to apply for vouchers may work for genuinely isolated properties but does not offer economies of scale for those which are semi-rural and could actually be upgraded more efficiently as a group.

Point 8 Minimising market distortion: Any failure to include semi - rural groups of properties as described will only increase market distortion and create anomalies which will have administrative cost impact in the future. While competition in terms of consumer pricing is important, in terms of the low level infrastructure development that is required it must be more efficient to upgrade groups of properties together.

In conclusion: I hope this consultation will take on board the need to address ours and similar properties, recognising that they form an important part of the semi-rural economy, and that it must be efficient and cost effective to upgrade them collectively.

\* Connectivity map reference:

<https://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/where-when/>